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Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15
PRS-01 /075 W
----------000867 221603Z /43
R 221234Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5543
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 11796

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOB; DPIP,IN, UR, US
SUBJECT: PRESS REPORTING OF PM'S PROPOSED VISITS TO MOSCOW AND WASHINGTON

1.PRIME MINISTER DESAI'S RUMORED VISITS TO MOSCOW AND WASHINGTON THIS FALL HAVE BEEN NOTED IN SEVERAL PRESS REPORTS AND AT LEAST ONE EDITORIAL IN RECENT DAYS FOLLOWING LEAD STORY IN AUGUST 19 "TIMES OF INDIA" (NEW DELHI 11688). THE PM WAS ASKED ABOUT THESE TRIPS AT AN AUGUST 21 PRESS CONFERENCE IN PATNA (SEE SEPTEL). SOME NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS HAVE SOUGHT TO INFER A CONNECTION BETWEEN DESAI'S VISIT TO MOSCOW AND DEFENSE MINISTER JAGJIVAN RAM'S REPORTED PLANS TO VISIT THE USSR AND EASTERN EUROPE NEXT MONTH. WRITING IN THE AUGUST 20 "HINDU", G.K. REDDY, HOWEVER, NOTED THAT THESE VISITS WERE ARRANGED INDEPENDENTLY.

2. IN HIS ARTICLE REDDY WROTE THAT THE PM WILL TRAVEL TO MOSCOW EARLY IN SEPTEMBER AND TO THE US IN OCTBER OR EARLY NOVEMBER.BOTH VISITS WILL BE PRIMARILY WORKING TRIPS. WITH CEREMONIAL FUNCTIONS KEPT TO A MINIMUM. UPON THEIR COMPLETION, DESAI WILL HAVE COMPLETED THE FIRST ROUND OF GETTINGACQUAINTED WITH LEADING WORLD STATESMEN. ACCORDING TO REDDY, THE SOVIET INVITATION WAS FIRST CONVEYED BY
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GROMYKO DURING HIS DELHI VISIT IN APRIL AND THEN RENEWED IN A PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM BREZHNEV IN JUNE. REDDY SAID THAT BREZHNEV HAS ALSO ACCEPTED DESAI'S INVITATION TO VISIT INDIA AND THAT THIS COULD OCCUR EARLY NEXT YEAR. THE PM WILL CONFINE HIS MOSCOW DISCUSSIONS TO POLITICAL ISSUES WITHOUT ENGAING IN DETAILED TALKS ON INCREASED ECONOMIC COOPERATION OR PURCHASE OF DEFENSE EQUIPMENT. REDDY SAW AS AN INDICATION OF THE IMPORTANCE WHICH

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PRESIDENT CARTER IS ATTACHING TO DESAI'S VISIT THE FACT THAT THE
PRESIDENT WANTS THE PM TO ADDRESS A JOINT SESSION OF CONGRESS,
"A RARE HONOR EXTENDED TO LEADING WORLD STATESMEN."

3. AN EDITORIALIN THE AUGUST 22 "TIMES OF INDIA" CHARACTERIZED
THE PM'S MOSCOW TRIP AS A CLEAR INDICATION OF THE JANATA GOVERN-
MENT'S RECOGNITION OF THE IMPORTANCE OF INDO-SOVIET RELATIONS
AND ITS RESOLVE TO STRENGTHEN THEM. DESAI'S VISIT SHOULD NOT BE A

MERE GOODWILL MISSION, BUT SHOULD BE USED TO END THE "STAGNATION"
IN INDO-SOVIET RELATIONS WHICH HAD BEGUN TO APPEAR DURING
MRS. GANDHI'S REGIME. THE EDITORIAL ADVISED THE TWO
GOVERNMENTS TO WORK OUT A NEW FRAMEWORK FOR FUTURE
DEALINGS, SINCE THE PREVIOUS APPROACH TO INDO-SOVIET
COOPERATION HAD PROVED INEFFECTIVE AND LED TO
MISUNDERSTANDING.GOHEEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Executive Order: N/A
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Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Review Release Date: n/a
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SAS ID: 1527821
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS REPORTING OF PM\'S PROPOSED VISITS TO MOSCOW AND WASHINGTON
TAGS: PGOV, PDIP, SOPN, IN, UR, US, (DESAI, MORARJI)
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